

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement mailed October 4, 2001, Applicants hereby elect the Claims of Group I (Claims 1-38), drawn to an alkali metal compound, for substantive examination at this time.

In response to the Examiner's election of species requirement, Applicants understand this to be a request for a provisional election under MPEP Section 803.02. Accordingly, Applicants provisionally elect the compound species in which T is oxygen and A is carbon for substantive examination at this time.

Applicants respectfully submit that election of a species with regard to the remaining substituents of the compounds of the invention should not be required as members of these groups are sufficiently few in number so that it is not unduly burdensome for the Examiner to search and examine these groups as a whole. However, for purposes of a response to the election of species requirement, Applicants elect with traverse the compound species in which M is lithium, Q is derived from isoprene, Z is a straight chain, unsubstituted hydrocarbon group, and more specifically $-(CH_2)_3-$, each R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is alkyl, and more specifically methyl, and m is 1.

Claims 1 and 17 are generic claims encompassing the elected species and Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 15, 18, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31 and newly added Claims 91 and 92 are specific to the elected species.

This election is made without traverse to the extent it is understood that, upon the finding of an allowable species, examination will continue with the non-elected species until all species have been examined or a non-allowable species is found, all in accordance with the procedures set forth in MPEP Section 803.02.

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing places the case in condition for substantive examination, which action is respectfully solicited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of

In re: Schwindeman et al.
Appl. No.: 09/625,787
Filed: July 26, 2000
Page 4 of 4

this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa B. Pendleton
Registration No. 35,459

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number EL913134411US
Date of Deposit: December 3, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on December 3, 2001.


Grace R. Rippy